

Citizens Advisory Committee for Mayor-Council Transition

Attn: Council Committee on Mayor-Council Transition

**Re: CAC Recommendations on Legislative Process, Council Committees,
Legislative Analyst, and Independent Budget Analyst**

Date: July 14, 2005

ITEM-1 LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Discussion: One of the CAC's overall goals is to ensure a level playing field for all council districts. At the same time, the CAC understands the organizational and political necessity, under the new mayor-council system, for the individual selected as council president to have considerably more power than other fellow council members.

The attempt to create a democratic balance prompted us to support a proposal for a procedural or rules committee with 2 rotating council members working alongside the council president.

Since subsequent information from the city clerk's office suggests that docketing inefficiencies stemming from this proposal would outweigh the benefits, and since the CAC goal of equalizing participation for all council districts remains a high priority, we have looked at alternative ways of addressing this goal and ask you to consider the following recommendations:

- * To increase the opportunity for all council members to be heeded, revise the permanent rule of council re. Procedures for Resolutions and Ordinances to read: "The Rules Committee shall place directly on the Council agenda, prior to assignment to any committee, any matter so requested in writing by three (3) members of the Council."**
- * Establish the position of docketing administrator as an independent, long-range, and non-political responsibility. This would ensure a highly professionally legislative process providing equitable and stable coordination among all government departments and political players. It would not preclude council presidents from hiring their own docketing liaisons to work alongside the administrator to advance the agenda of the council president.**

ITEM-2 COUNCIL COMMITTEES, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST, INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST

- * Establish a Standing Committee on Budget & Finance (5-8 members)**
- * Revise the scope and size of the Rules Committee (now is a loosely-defined catch-all)**
- * Retain a separate Committee on Open & Efficient Government, in addition to LU&H, PS&NR, and NR&C**
- * Consider committees of 3 members (except Budget Committee)**
- * Create an Office of Legislative Analysis (essential resource for Council effectiveness)**
- * Initiate a search and hiring process for Independent Budget Analyst office**